

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting up the communications link in the transport network via at least one decentralized device.
5. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the central device controls a decentralized switching device.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting up and/or clearing a communications link to a communications terminal, and setting up the connection via the transport network by producing at least one time slot control information item in the central device, which information item is used for setting up connections in the transport network.
7. The method as claimed in claim 6, linking the time slot control information is to transport-network-specific information and transmitting to a decentralized device.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an asynchronous transmission method is used for transmission via the communications link.
9. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application, related to the central device by the central device.
10. An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:
 - a transport network to provide a communications link;
 - a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link; and
 - a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network, the device arranged physically separately from the transport network.
11. The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, in which the transport network has at least one decentralized device to connect with a communications terminal, and has a switching device in the region of the decentralized device to provide a communications link in the transport network.
12. The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, in which the control network has a central device for control.

13. The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, which has a central device to provide at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application relating to a central device, the device being operatively connected to the central device.

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14. The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least two decentralized devices for connection of communications terminals. PDX

15. The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein in the region of the decentralized device, there is a control device to provide a communications link in the region of this decentralized device, if the central control device is not available.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 4, in which the central device controls a decentralized switching device.

18. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least two decentralized devices for connection of communications terminals.

19. (New) An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

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a transport network to provide a communications link;
a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link; and
a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network, the device arranged physically separately from the transport network.

20. (New) An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

a transport network to provide a communications link;
a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link;
a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network, the device arranged physically separately from the transport network, wherein

22
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the transport network has at least one decentralized device to connect with a communications terminal, and has a switching device in the region of the decentralized device to provide a communications link in the transport network,

the control network has a central device for control; and

a central device to provide at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application relating to a central device, the device being operatively connected to the central device.

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.